DECLASSIFIED Pat 14 PETS (293)

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42
ACTION RA-19

INFO RAL-01 SAH 03 CPM 03 OC 01 RSC 01 USIA 12 H 02 NSC 10 NSAE 00
-03 INR 07 P 04 CIA 04 DOD 01 SP 02 SS 35 AID 30 RSR 01 /39 W

DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR
REVIEWED BY Joan Szuberla DATE 10/6/81
RDS ☐ or XDS ☐ EXT. DATE _____
TS AUTH. _____ REASON _____
ENDORSE EXISTING MARKINGS ☐
DECLASSIFIED ☑ RELEASABLE ☑
RELEASE DENIED ☐
PA or FOI EXEMPTIONS _____

R 251257Z AUG 67
FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5385
INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK 3916
CINCPAC
AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE 2263
AMCONSUL DANANG 0791

C O N F I D E N T I A L SAIGON 4058

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

SUBJECT: PROVINCIAL REPORTING: ELECTION PICTURE IN SA DEC AS OF AUGUST 22

1. S DEC HAS 97,662 REGISTERED VOTERS AND BEST VOTER TURNOUT RECORD IN THE DELTA, THUS IS SIGNIFICANT PRIZE IN DELTA ELECTION CONTEST. THIEU-KY SLATE WITH SUBSTANTIAL BACKING FROM PROVINCES FORTY PERCENT HOA HAO POPULATION APPEARS TO ENJOY

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CLEAR EDGE OVER HUONG, BUT LATTER HAS EFFECTIVE LOCAL ORGANIZATION AND WILL ALSO DRAW CONSIDERABLE NUMBER OF VOTES. SUU IS NOT WELL REPRESENTED BUT WILL DO BETTER THAN OTHER THREE CANDIDATES REPRESENTED IN PROVINCE, HA THUC [illegible], TRAN VAN LY, AND NGUYEN DINH QUAT.

2. THIEU-KY SLATE REPRESENTED BY HOA HAO NA DEPUTY

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NGUYEN VAN VI WHO WON LAST YEAR ON HOA GAO SLATE WHICH P LLED 87,000 VOTES IN OLD PROVINCE OF VINH LONG, OUT OF WHICH SA DEC HAS SINCE BEEN CREATED. VI PROBABLY BRINGS WITH HIM BULK OF HOA HAO "ESTABLISHMENT" BUT IT IS SAID THAT HIS STOCK IN SA DEC HAS BEEN LOWERED BECAUSE OF HIS SUPPORT FOR LUONG TRANG TUONG AGAINST LT COL TRAN VAN TUOI IN HOA HAO LEADERSHIP SQUABBLE. TUOI APPRENTLY MORE POPULAR THAN TUONG IN SA DEC; ALSO, VI IS CRITICIZED BY OTHER LOCAL HOA HAO FIGURES FOR HAVING "PLAYED POLITICS" IN ASSEMBLY, USING RELIGION TO ENHANCE PERSONAL STATUS. NEVERTHELESS, SENTIMENT IN THE PROVINCE RUNS STRONGLY IN FAVOR OF THIEU-KY TICKET, ESPECIALLY KY HIMSELF. AS NE HOA HAO VILLAGE ADMIN- ISTRATIVE COMMITTE CHAIRMAN PUT IT, "MR KY HAS COME DOWN TO THE SACRED LAND AND HELPED US. ONE MUST HELP THOSE WHO HAVE

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HELPED ONES FAMILY. F WE DO NOT VOTE FOR MR KY, IT WOULD NOT BE RIGHT." VI'S PREDICTION THAT GVN SLATE WILL PULL 70 OR 80 PERCENT OF THE VOTE IS NO DOUBT EXAGGERATED, BUT SOLID PLURALITY IS IN PROSPECT.

3. HUONG'S LOCAL REPRESENTATIVE IS NGUYEN HONG PHUOC WHO RAN FOURTH OF TWELVE IN SA DEC VILLAGE COUNCIL ELECTION. PHUOC SAYS HE WAS NED AS HUONG REPRESENTATIVE BY KIEN PHONG NA DEPUTY BUI VAN KIEU, WHO REPRESENTS HUONG N KIEN PHONG. PHUOC HESITATES TO PREDICT ELECTION OUTCOME. HE DID SAY THAT DONG HA INCIDENT HSS BLOWN OVER AND THAT NOTHING HAS HAPPENED IN SA DEC TO SUBSTANTIATE THE CHARGES OF UNFAIR TACTICS INVOLVED AGAINST THE GVN BY THE HUONG NATIONAL ORGANIZATION. PHUOC COMPLAINS OF LADCK OF FUNDS BUT HE HAS SUPPORT FROM SOME LOCAL MERCHANTS.

4. SA DEC PROVINCE CHIEF MAJOR LE THO TRUNG APPEARS TO HAVE TRIED TO BE STUDIOUSLY NEUTRAL IN THE CAMPAIGN AND AS CITED ABOVE EVEN HUONGS PREPRESENTATIVE HAS NO COMPLAINTS ALONG THAT LINE. ALTHOUGH DURING A VISIT BY PRIME MINISTER KY TO SA DEC EARLIER THIS MONTH GVN TRUCKS WERE USED TO BRING PEOPLE TO HEAR HIM SPEAK (THEY HAVE ALSO BEEN USED IN VARIOUS

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PLACES TO BRING PEOPLE TO HEAR THE CIVILIAN CANDIDATES), AFTER KY'S DEPARTURE TRUNG HOI THE PRO-KY SIGNS WHICH HAD BEEN POSTED BY VIS FOR THE OCCASION REMOVED BY VIS.

5. CAMPAIGN ACTIVITY BY LOCAL REPRESENTATIVES HAS BEEN SPOTTY, BUT MOVING AT FASTER PACE THAN EARLIER THIS MONTH. OBVIOUSLY, IN LARGELY ILLITERATE RURAL POPULATION IT IS HARD TO STIMULATE ENTHUSIASM FOR THIS FOURTH ELECTION IN TWELVE MONTHS. CAMPAIGN POSTERS ARE PLENTIFUL IN SA DEC TOWN AND PRESIDENTIAL CMPAIGN COMMITTEE HAS ORGANIZED THREE PUBLIC MEETINGS, ONE IN PROVINCIAL CAPITAL AND TWO IN DISTRICT TOWNS OF LAP VO AND DUC THANH. UPPER HOUSE POSTERS ARE ALSO IN EVIDENCE, ESPECIALLY THOSE OF THE THREE COCONUT LISTS (NOS. 32, 33, 34) WHICH HAVE BLESSING OF ALL-VIETNAM BLOC AND ITS HOA HAO MEMBERSHIP. VI, THIEU-KY REPPESENTATIVE, IS HOWEVER CAMPAIGNING FOR THE UPPER HOUSE LIST OF LA THANH NGHE (NO. 2).

6. PHAN KHAC SUU'S REPRESENTATIVE IN SA DEC IS A RELATIVELY UNKNOWN MERCHANT AND SUU DOES NOT APPEAR TO HAVE MUCH SUPPORT. OF OTHER PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATES, ONY REPRESENTATIVES OF HA THUC KY ARE WORKING HARD BUT KY'S SUPPORTERS, ALTHOUGH ADMIRED FOR THEIR ENERGY, ARE NOT NUMEROUS.
BUNKER

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